

HO-927

Alpha Post Office

11995 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville

Howard County, Maryland

The Alpha Post Office is located at 11995 Old Frederick Road, on the southeast side of the road (Route 99) and Sandhill Road in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The property consists of a frame dwelling and the deteriorated remains of a building that functioned for part of its life as a post office. This building is scheduled to be demolished. The house is located on the eastern half of the lot and is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay by one-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, aluminum siding with brick veneer on the first story of the north elevation, and a gable roof of standing seam metal with an east-west ridge. The house faces north toward Route 99 and has an ell on the south that is two stories and two bays by two bays. The ell also has a parged foundation, and aluminum siding, and has a standing seam metal shed roof that slopes down to the south. The post office building is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, board and batten siding that is circular-sawn, and a gable roof that had wood shingles on the west and has a north-south ridge. The roof and west wall are completely gone. According to the owner, this building used to have a lean-to on the south side.

The Alpha Post Office is situated on part of a 2-acre lot that was purchased by Julia Ann Hood in 1883 for \$100. Clearly, there were no improvements on the property at that time. Hood sold part of the property in 1891 and then sold the remainder in 1902 for \$1250, indicating that the existing house must have been built by her and her husband, Thomas. The building is a standard cross-gabled I-house, a form very popular in Howard County from c. 1880-1910. The Hoods probably built the house immediately, because Thomas Hood was made the first postmaster of Alpha, on 27 February 1884. They probably also built the one-story building that served as the post office at the same time, rather than operating out of one room in their house. This building had bars at the windows for security, and was heated by a stove. The post office continued in operation at Alpha until 15 June 1915, when it was moved to Marriottsville. John Streaker purchased the property from the Hoods and took over operation of the post office. After it closed, he opened a blacksmith shop in the old building until his death in 1921.

Maryland Historical Trust

Inventory No. HO-927

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alpha Post Office

other

2. Location

street and number 11995 Old Frederick Road not for publication

city, town Marriottsville X vicinity

county Howard

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John & Gwenn Streaker

street and number 1805 Sand Hill Road telephone

city, town Marriottsville state MD zip code 21104

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 10-301

city, town Ellicott City liber 549 folio 303

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u> 2 </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> 0 </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u> 0 </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u> 0 </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u> 2 </u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Post office demo'ed 2006	<u> 0 </u>
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-927

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Alpha Post Office is located at 11995 Old Frederick Road, on the southeast side of the road (Route 99) and Sandhill Road in north-central Howard County, Maryland. The property consists of a frame dwelling and the deteriorated remains of a building that functioned for part of its life as a post office. This building is scheduled to be demolished.

House

The house is located on the eastern half of the lot and is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay by one-bay frame structure with a parged foundation, aluminum siding with brick veneer on the first story of the north elevation, and a gable roof of standing seam metal with an east-west ridge. The house faces north toward Route 99 and has an ell on the south that is two stories and two bays by two bays. The ell also has a parged foundation, and aluminum siding, and has a standing seam metal shed roof that slopes down to the south.

The north elevation of the house has a center door with three lights over three lying panels. There are new one-over-one sash throughout the house, with two on each side of the door and five on the second story of this elevation. There is a new porch on the front. The house has a cross gable with a semi-circular arched opening that is now infilled at the top. The east elevation has a single one-over-one sash on both the first and second stories and one in the gable end with infill above it; this opening was originally semi-circular arched. There is a brick chimney in the center. The west elevation of the main block is identical to the east elevation. The west elevation of the ell has a one-story addition on it that has a new one-over-one sash and a door with four lights over three lying panels. This addition has a shed roof of inverted-V-seam metal that slopes down to the west. The ell has a single new window on the second story, set to the north. There is an interior brick chimney in the center of the ell, up against the wall of the main block. The south elevation of the ell has a single new window on both the first and second stories. The south elevation of the main block also has a single new window in the east bay of both the first and second stories. The main block seems to have been arranged as three bays, not five.

Post Office

The post office building is a one-story, three-bay by two-bay frame structure with a rubble stone foundation, board and batten siding that is circular-sawn, and a gable roof that had wood shingles on the west and has a north-south ridge. The roof and west wall are completely gone. The north elevation has a two-over-two sash with bars behind it in the east bay. There is head-cut trim with a slight pediment to the top piece. The west bay sash is gone, but the bars survive and the trim matches the east bay. The east elevation wall is beginning to collapse. There is an opening to the south that must have been a window, as there are bars here. A doorway is set south of center. The north bay has a window opening that retains its bars, but the sash is missing. There is a single two-panel shutter on the ground here. The south elevation wall is partially gone, and there is a doorway in the center of this wall. The interior of the building had a wood floor that is now gone. The walls have beaded-edge-and-center vertical boards. There is beaded-interior-edge mitered trim that is painted red, and a four-panel door that has sunken fields and is also painted red. The chimney on the north wall is parged below the ceiling line, with a thimble for a stove. According to the owner, this building used to have a lean-to on the south side.

8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-927

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Construction dates

c. 1883

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Alpha Post Office is situated on part of a 2-acre lot that was purchased by Julia Ann Hood in 1883 for \$100. Clearly, there were no improvements on the property at that time. Hood sold part of the property in 1891 and then sold the remainder in 1902 for \$1250, indicating that the existing house must have been built by her and her husband, Thomas. The building is a standard cross-gabled I-house, a form very popular in Howard County from c. 1880-1910. The Hoods probably built the house immediately, because Thomas Hood was made the first postmaster of Alpha, on 27 February 1884. They probably also built the one-story building that served as the post office at the same time, rather than operating out of one room in their house. This building had bars at the windows for security, and was heated by a stove. The post office continued in operation at Alpha until 15 June 1915, when it was moved to Marriottsville. John Streaker purchased the property from the Hoods and took over operation of the post office. After it closed, he opened a blacksmith shop in the old building until his death in 1921. This building used to have a lean-to on the south side, and there was a freestanding carriage house and ice house further south of it. (1)

Notes:

(1). Post office research by Grover C. Hinds, courtesy of Joetta Cramm. Interview with John R. Streaker, III, 9 November 2006.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-927

See continuation sheet. Footnotes

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .754 A

Acreage of historical setting 2 A

Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is the property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Short

organization Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning

date 7/23/2007

street and number 3430 Courthouse Drive

telephone 410-313-4335

city or town Ellicott City

state MD zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

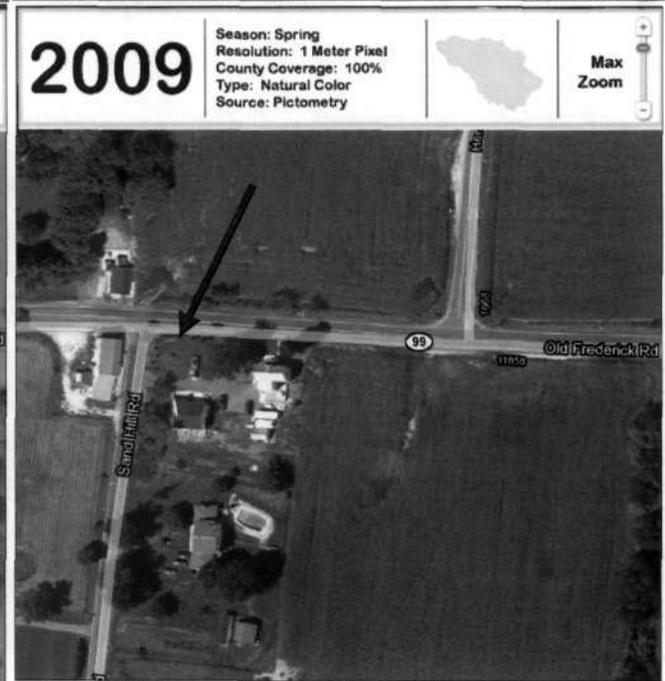
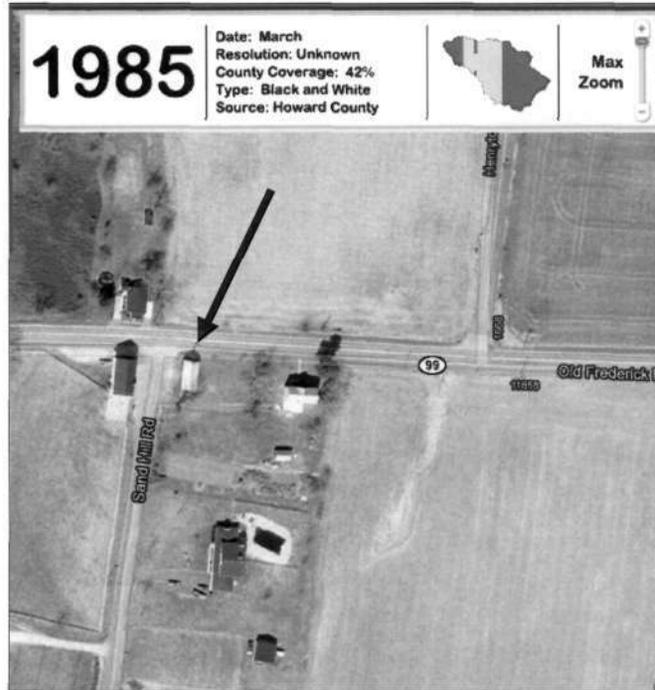
Alpha Post Office

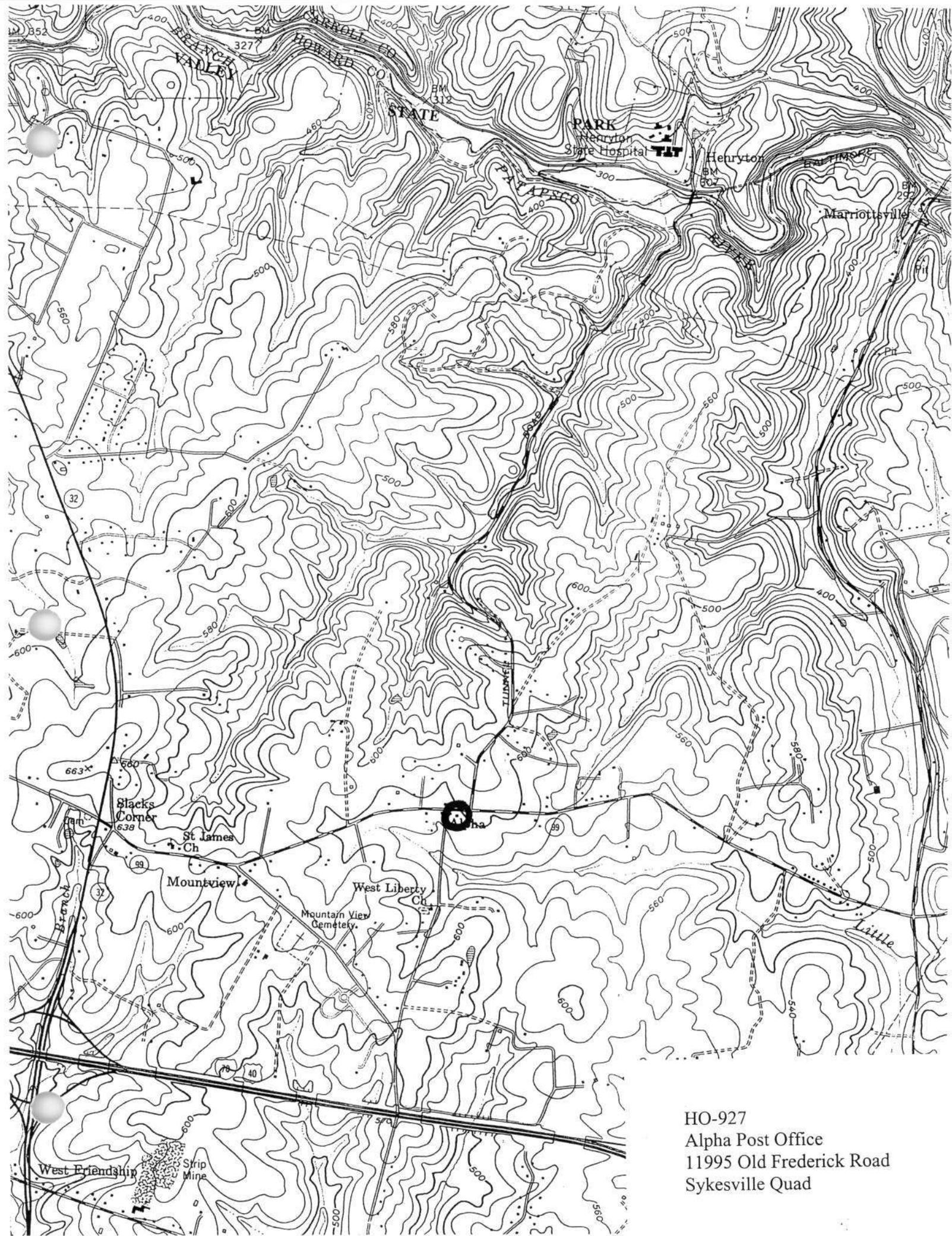
HO-927 Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
CHAIN OF TITLE

GRANTOR/HOME	GRANTEE/HOME	DATE	LIBER/ FOLIO	INSTRU- MENT	CONSIDER- ATION	ACREAGE	NOTES
C. Orman Manahan	John R. Streaker, III & wf. E. Gwenn	1.26.1971	549-303	Deed - fee simple	\$5.00	?	
Julia A. Hood & hus. Thomas J. Ellis Hood Jones & hus. Edgar G./MD	John R. Streaker/?	2.15.1902	J.H.O. 75-46	Deed - fee simple	\$1,250	?	Some land sold off 1891
Charles T. Grant & wf. Maud O./MD John G. Rogers	Julia Ann Hood/MD	12.18.1883	47-235	Deed - fee simple	\$100	2 A	Old Frederick Rd. & Rd. to Henryton

HO-927
Alpha Post Office, site
11995 Old Frederick Road, Marriottsville
Howard County GIS
Howard County Aerial Photography Viewer

demolished c. 2006





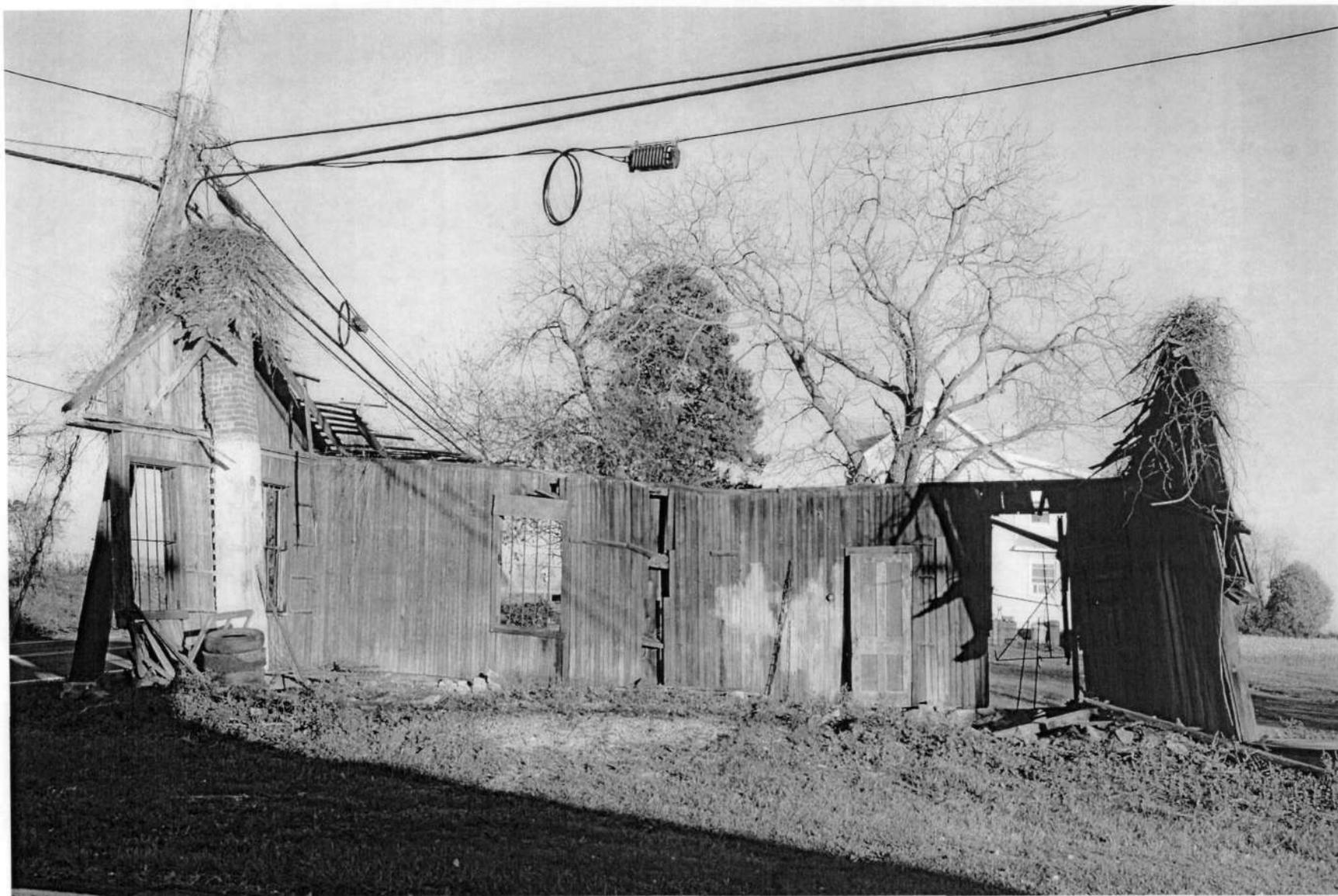
HO-927
Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
Sykesville Quad



HO-927 Alpha Post Office 11995 Old Frederick Road House, north elevation
Ken Short, November 2006 1/4



HO-927 Alpha Post Office 11995 Old Frederick Road House, west elevation
Ken Short, November 2006 2/4



HO-927 Alpha Post Office 11995 Old Frederick Road Post office, view from west
Ken Short, November 2006 3/4



HO-927 Alpha Post Office 11995 Old Frederick Road Post office, east & north elevations
Ken Short, November 2006 4/4

HO-0927_20061109_01
Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
Howard County, Maryland
House, north elevation
Ken Short
November 2006
1/4

HO-0927_20061109_02
Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
Howard County, Maryland
House, west elevation
Ken Short
November 2006
2/4

HO-0927_20061109_03
Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
Howard County, Maryland
Post office, view from west
Ken Short
November 2006
3/4

HO-0927_20061109_04
Alpha Post Office
11995 Old Frederick Road
Howard County, Maryland
Post office, east & north elevations
Ken Short
November 2006
4/4